Scotland [Laws - II. Charles II.] D-I 5/7(2)

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# ACT

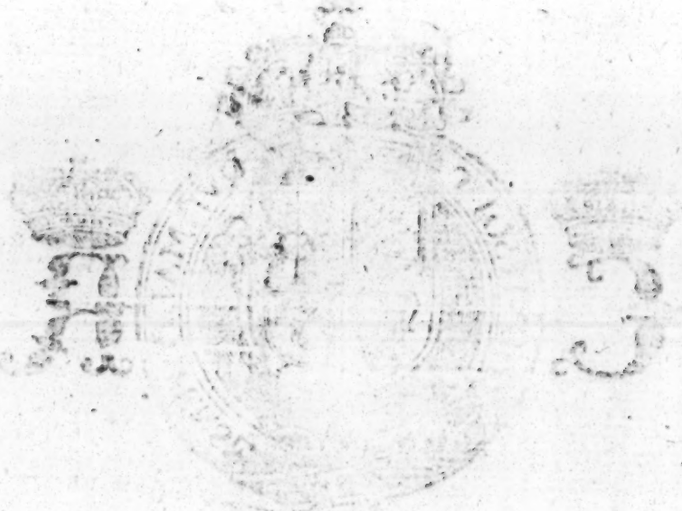
For preſervation of His

# MAJESTIES PERSON,

AUTHORITY and GOVERNMENT.

At *Edinburgh*, the twenty fourth day of *June*, 1662.

*EDINBURGH*,
Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, 1662.



BRITISH MUSEUM
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# ACT for preſervation of His *Majeſties* Perſon, Authority and Government.

*At* Edinburgh, *the twenty fourth day of* June, 1662.

THe Eſtates of Parliament taking into their conſideration, the miſeries, confuſions, bondage and oppreſſions this Kingdom hath groaned under ſince the year one thouſand ſix hundred and thirty ſeven, with the cauſes and occaſions thereof, Do with all humble duty and thankfulneſs acknowledge His Majeſties unparalell'd grace and goodneſs, in paſſing by the many miſcariages of His Subjects, and reſtoring the Church and State to their ancient Liberties, Freedom, Rights and Poſſeſſions; And the great obligations thereby lying upon them to expreſs all poſſible care and zeal in the preſervation of His Majeſties Perſon, (in whoſe honor and happineſs conſiſteth the good and welfare of His people) and in the ſecurity and eſtabliſhment of His Royal Authority and Government, againſt all ſuch wicked attempts and practiſes for the time to come. And ſince the riſe and progreſs of the late troubles, did in a great meaſure, proceed from ſome treaſonable and ſeditious poſitions infuſed into the people, That it was lawfull to Subjects, for Reformation, to enter into Covenants and Leagues, or to take up Arms againſt the King or thoſe commiſſionated by Him, and ſuchlike: And that many wilde and rebellious courſes were taken

and practised in pursuance thereof, by unlawfull meetings and gatherings of the people; by mutinous and tumultuary Petitions; by insolent and seditious Protestations against His Majesties Royal and Just commands; by entering into unlawfull Oathes and Covenants; by usurping the name and power of Council tables and Church-judicatories, after they were, by His Majesty discharged, by treasonable Declarations, that His Majesty was not to be admitted to the exercise of his Royal power until he should grant their unjust desires and approve their wicked practices; by rebellious rising in Arms against His Majesty and such as had Commission from him, and by the great countenance, allowance and encouragement given to these pernitious courses by the multitude of seditious Sermons, Libels and Discourses, preached, printed and published in defence thereof. And considering, that as the present age is not fully freed of those distempers, so posterity may be apt to relapse therin, if timeous remeid be not provided. Therefore the Kings Majesty and Estates of Parliament do Declare, that these positions, That it is lawfull to Subjects upon pretence of Reformation, or other pretence whatsoever, to enter into Leagues and Covenants, or to take up Arms against the King; or that it is lawfull to Subiects, pretending His Maiesties Authority, to take up Arms against His Person or those commissionated by Him, or to suspend Him from the exercise of His Royal Government, or to put limitations upon their due obedience and alleagiance, Are Rebellious and Treasonable: And that all these Gatherings, Convocations, Petitions, Protestations and erecting and keeping of Council-tables that were used in the beginning and for carrying on of the

the late troubles were unlawfull and seditious: And particularly that these Oaths, whereof the one was commonly called, The National Covenant, (as it was sworn and explained in the year one thousand six hundred and thirty eight, and thereafter) and the other entituled, A Solemn League and Covenant, were and are in themselves unlawfull Oathes, and were taken by, and imposed upon, the Subjects of this Kingdom, against the fundamental Laws and Liberties of the same; and that there lyeth no obligation upon any of the Subjects from the saids Oaths, or either of them, to endeavour any change or alteration of Government either in Church or State; And therefore Annulls all Acts and Constitutions, Ecclesiastical or Civil, approving the said pretended National Covenant or League and Covenant, or making any interpretations of the same or either of them. And also it is hereby declared by His Majesty and Estates of Parliament, that the pretended Assembly kept at Glasgow, in the year one thousand six hundred and thirty eight, was in it self (after the same was by His Majesty discharged, under the pain of treason) an unlawfull and seditious Meeting; and that all Acts, Deeds, Sentences, Orders or Decreets past therein, or by vertue of any pretended Authority from the same, were in themselves from the beginning, are now, and in all time coming, to be reputed unlawfull, void and null: And that all Ratifications or Confirmations of the same, past by whatsoever Authority or in whatsoever Meetings, shall from hence forth be void and null. Whereas His Majesty and Estates of Parliament reflecting on the sad consequences of these rebellious courses, and being care-

full to prevent the like for the future, have therefore Statute and Ordained, and by these presents Statutes and Ordains, that if any person or persons shall hereafter plot, contrive or intend death or destruction to the Kings Majesty, or any bodily harm tending to death or destruction, or any restraint upon His Royal Person, or to deprive, depose or suspend Him from the Stile, Honor and Kingly name of the Imperial Crown of this Realm or any others His Majestes Dominions, or to suspend Him from the exercise of His Royal Government, or to levy War or take up Arms against His Majesty or any commissionated by Him, or shall intice any strangers or others to invade any of His Majesties Dominions; and shall by Writing, printing, preaching or other malicious and advised speaking, express or declare such their treasonable intentions, every such person or persons being, upon sufficient probation, legally convicted thereof, shall be deemed, declared and adjudged Traitors, and shall suffer forfeitur of life, honor, lands and goods as in cases of high treason. And further it is by His Maiesty and Estates of Parliament Declared, Statute and Enacted, that if any person or persons shall by Writing, printing, praying, preaching, libelling, remonstrating, or by any malicious and advised speaking, express, publish or declare any words or sentences to stir up the people to the hatred or dislike of His Maiesties Royal Prerogative and Supremacy in causes Ecclesiastick, or to the Government of the Church by Archbishops and Bishops as it is now setled by Law, or to justifie any of the deeds, actings, practices or things abovementioned and declared against by this present Act, that every such person or persons so offending, and being, as said

is, legally convicted thereof, are hereby declared incapable to enjoy or exerce any place or imployment, Civil, Ecclesiasticall or Military, within this Church and Kingdom, and shall be lyable to such further pains as are due by the Law in such cases; Provided allwayes, that no person be processed for any of the offences aforesaid contained in this Act (other then these that are declared to be high Treason) unless it be by order from his Majesty, or by order of his Privy Council for the time; neither shall they incur any of the penalties abovementioned, unless they be pursued within eight moneths after the offence committed, and sentenced thereupon within four moneths after the intenting of the Process. And it is also declared, that if his Majesty grant his pardon to any person convicted for any of the offences contained in this present Act, after such pardon the party pardoned shall be restored to all intents and purposes as if he had never been pursued nor convicted, any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding. And Ordains these presents to be printed and published at the Mercat Crosses of all the Royal Burghs within this Kingdom.